

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PORT AU PRINCE 002893

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR
DRL
S/CRS
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS AID FOR LAC/CAR
INR/IAA (BEN-YEHUDA)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [HA](#)

SUBJECT: ELECTIONS HICCUP EMBLEMATIC OF LACK OF STRATEGIC
PLANNING

1. Summary: The PM hosted a meeting November 21 to discuss ID cards and voter lists, which became a forum for the international community and Interim Government of Haiti (IGOH) to discuss the electoral calendar. Roughly 90,000 voters are not yet included on the nationwide list of voters and between 150,000 and 400,000 additional voters have not been assigned to legislative districts. Though CEP Director General Jacques Bernard said the problems should present little more than a minor bump in elections process, they must be resolved immediately or they could impact the electoral calendar. (Bernard told the Charge late 22 November that the 90,000 have been added to the data base.) The Interim Government of Haiti was adamant that the first round must be December 27 and offered five senior government staff to assist the CEP. The Prime Minister said new CEP bylaws were published in the state newspaper November 17, but post sources inside the paper say the government is holding publication of the edition. CEP sources note unhappiness with the rules that did not receive full CEP approval. End Summary

2. In a meeting November 21, ostensibly to discuss voter ID cards, the Interim Government of Haiti (IGOH); Provisional Electoral Council (CEP); international elections implementors; the Charge; and the heads of the Canadian, French, and EU missions discussed ID cards, voter lists, and the electoral calendar. The Prime Minister reported the recent discovery that some 90,000 registrants have not been incorporated into the OAS list of voters and another 150,000 to 400,000 urban voters have not been assigned voting centers. Bernard said the realization would prove nothing more than a minor wrinkle in electoral preparations if treated appropriately. As a result, the CEP has asked for, and received, an extension until the evening of November 22 to finalize the electoral calendar. Infact, the CEP missed the deadline and will be meeting on the question at 1000 23 November. Bernard told the Charge late November 22 that all 90,000 names had been entered into the data base during the day, eliminating this issue as a possible element of further delay.

3. Bernard, MINUSTAH electoral chief LeChevallier and CEP President Mathurin explained the two fold mechanism by which the unfinished voter lists could impact the electoral calendar. In order for the printer to begin list production, all voters must be assigned to a district. The Haitian printer has said he can print all of the voter lists in 16 days, however his contract gives him 30, which does not include combining the lists with the voting kit for each site. In addition, the three Dominican ballot-printing firms need a final tally of the number of ballots they will need for each race, which will not be complete until all voters are assigned to their districts. The printers have other contracts lined up and, according to LeChevallier, have a window to print the Haitian ballots which could close if there are further delays. Bernard, LeChevallier and Mathurin insisted that creatively juggling the printing could still preserve December 27, but said the CEP would need to create technical fixes and/or work arounds for the problems.

4. The Prime Minister and Brunache insisted that the election dates are already fixed in the eyes of the international community and that the CEP, MINUSTAH and OAS must do everything they can to respect December 27. The PM vociferously announced that should the CEP request specific assistance, five experienced government officials were standing by to bolster the CEP's administrative team. (Note: After the meeting Bernard took a list of specific needs to the PM. End Note)

5. UN SRSG Valdes agreed with the CEP plan to fix the voter list inadequacies, but highlighted the CEP Director General's continued lack of executive authority to run elections. The PM circulated the text of new CEP bylaws, which, he said, were established by executive order November 17. The new bylaws (septel) eliminate the two-committee (executive and operational) structure originally proposed by the now

disbanded CEP Support Committee and give the Director General significantly more power to administer the process. Though the Prime Minister said the new bylaws were included in the November 17 Moniteur, the official government newspaper, sources at the paper said the government is holding the edition because it also contains the executive order on public financing for political parties, and the IGOH does not yet have the 55 million gourdes it promised to divide among the parties. CEP sources note unhappiness among some of the members because the entire body did not approve the internal rules. This matter is said to be on the agenda for the 10 a.m. 23 November meeting as well.

16. Comment: The discovery of additional and unassigned voters will not delay the process alone. However, the last-minute realization is symptomatic of the lack of strategic planning in the electoral effort. Implementors are unable to look more than a few days ahead to assess problems, which has increased the likelihood of last minute logistical failures.
CARNEY